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SIPDIS

DEPT FOR G/TIP AMB. ELY-RAPHEL; AF - DAS PERRY

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ALSO FOR INL, AF/W AND AF/RA

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NSC FOR AFRICA DIRECTOR JENDAYI FRAZER

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DOL FOR ILAB

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KCRM KWMN PHUM NT

SUBJECT: NIGERIA: OBASANJO TO HOST INTERNATIONAL TIP SUMMIT

This is an action cable; action request for G/TIP and INL in para 7.

¶1. In a May 7 meeting, Mike Mku, the President's Special Assistant on Human Trafficking and Child Labor confirmed August 1-4 as the dates for the Government of Nigeria's "International Summit" on Trafficking in Persons. Mku gave RNLEO a copy of President Obasanjo's April 5 letter inviting President Bush to this event. (Note: A copy has been faxed to G/TIP. End Note) Mku claims the original was delivered to the White House through the Nigeria Embassy in Washington. He also stated that the GON will soon follow that initial letter with greater details on the conference, including a tentative agenda.

¶2. Mku allowed RNLEO to review a draft of the agenda. Half of the conference is a plenary session, much of which is taken up by the presentation of country reports and presentations by International Organizations and Nigerian NGOs. There are plans for break-out sessions, though topics for discussion have yet to be determined.

¶3. Mku stated about 40 countries have been invited. These include, in Africa: Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Gabon, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Mauritania, Niger, South Africa, Senegal, Sudan and Togo. Outside Africa: Belgium, Bulgaria, China, France, Netherlands, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Saudi Arabia, U.S.A., Germany, Italy, Japan, the U.K. and Luxembourg. He explained that these countries were picked for either having a significant trafficking role (destination, transit area or source) or for being a significant donor of international anti-TIP efforts.

¶4. UN and International organizations to be invited include: OAU, ECOWAS, EU, ILO-IPEC, UNESCO, FAO, UNICEF, UNODCCP, IOM, and UNDP. Nigerian NGOs will play a role at the conference, but only one international anti-TIP NGO is on the agenda so far -- ECPAT.

¶5. When asked about the focus of the conference, Mku confessed that there are several themes being considered and no single focus has yet been established. In addition to looking at Africa's trafficking problems and the need for greater regional cooperation, the conference seeks to gain from the experiences of other countries with trafficking problems outside of Africa. Mku welcomed RNLEO's offer to discuss possible objectives for the conference that would both set it apart from other international TIP conferences and make it as productive as possible. Mku also solicited funding for the conference from the USG and other international donors.

¶6. Some of the themes currently being discussed by the GON's Planning Committee for the Conference include:

--"Legal Framework on Human Trafficking, Child Labor and Slavery with Reference to Nigeria;"
--"The Role of the Navy, Immigration, Customs and Police in Combating Human Trafficking;"
--"Rehabilitation of Victims of Human Trafficking;"
--"Combating Human Trafficking, Child Labor and Slavery through International Cooperation;"
--"The Fight Against Transnational Organized Crime with Particular Reference to Human Trafficking and Child Labor;" and
--"Impact of Human Trafficking, Child Labor, and Slavery on the Economies of Developing Countries"

17. Comment and Action Request: President Obasanjo understands the seriousness of the trafficking in persons problem and this conference reflects his sincere desire to develop an effective national and regional strategy to curb this egregious human rights violation. Post will continue to work with Mku to shape the conference for maximum effectiveness. Post proposes that G/TIP or INL provide funding for a portion of the conference (an estimated \$50-70,000) with the condition that the GON use that funding to devote part of the conference to discussions on strengthening ECOWAS member states' implementation of the ECOWAS Plan of Action Against TIP and expanding regional cooperation beyond ECOWAS to other states in Africa. Post would appreciate INL's and G/TIP's views on possible funding of part of this conference.

JETER